



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wisconsin Guard troops safe in southern Mississippi as Hurricane Katrina approaches

Camp Shelby designated as a Hurricane Evacuation Center

More than 1,000 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers who are training at Camp Shelby, Miss., are reported safely “hunkered down” in concrete block barracks rated to protect from stronger sustained winds than are currently expected at the base near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Wisconsin National Guard officials were in contact early this morning with officers from both of the state’s battalions training at Camp Shelby. They report that all the Wisconsin soldiers are accounted for, and all are being kept safely inside buildings capable of withstanding sustained winds of 100 miles per hour. At 9 a.m. Monday, hurricane winds at Camp Shelby were not forecast to exceed 90 miles per hour.

The Wisconsin National Guard has two battalions on active duty at Camp Shelby.

About 450 soldiers from 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery arrived at Camp Shelby Aug. 13. The battalion is headquartered in Wisconsin Rapids with subordinate units in Mosinee, Marshfield, Stevens Point and Clintonville. The battalion was augmented with 123 soldiers from the Kenosha-based 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, and another 12 from the Portage-based 132nd Support Battalion.

Another 560 soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry have been at Camp Shelby since Aug. 20. This battalion is headquartered in Madison with units in Fort Atkinson, Elkhorn, Oconomowoc, Hartford, Baraboo, Reedsburg and Watertown. The battalion was augmented by 114 soldiers from the Kenosha-based 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery and about 80 from the Portage-based 132nd Support Battalion. Nearly 40 other soldiers came from the 32nd Infantry Brigade headquarters at Camp Williams and headquarters detachment in Wausau, and nearly 30 other Wisconsin Army National Guard units from around the state also provided small numbers of soldiers.

Although training schedules for the two battalions are already impacted by the hurricane, both units are expected to make up their training and depart Camp Shelby for their overseas missions as planned.

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